

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for decoding a stream of data, the apparatus comprising
 - a decoder for decrypting data from the stream, using decryption control words;
 - a secure device coupled to the decoder, the secure device comprising
 - a memory space for storing at least two items of entitlement information;
 - 5 - an input for receiving messages from the apparatus, and
 - an execution unit arranged to respond to the messages, by selecting selected one of the items from among the at least two items, if stored, dependent on a content of the messages, the execution unit enabling sending of the control words to the decoder subject to the presence and validity of the selected one of the items, after decryption of the control word with a
 - 10 decryption key associated with the selected one of the items.
2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, the apparatus comprising a detector for determining a source of the stream of data, the detector being coupled to the input of the secure device, to control information in the messages that specifies the source, the execution
- 15 unit selecting from the items dependent on the specified source of the stream.
3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, the apparatus comprising a detector arranged to detect whether the stream is a partial stream selected from a larger stream, the detector controlling the content of the messages dependent on whether the stream is detected
- 20 to be a partial stream or not respectively, the execution unit selecting a first one of the items and a second one of the items dependent on whether the stream is detected to be a partial stream or not respectively.
4. An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the detector is arranged to detect
- 25 whether the stream is a partial stream dependent on the presence of a section in the stream that contains a table that describes the selection of the partial stream, the detector supplying encrypted control word information retrieved through said table to the secure device for use in supplying the control words to the decoder in case of a partial stream, the detector

supplying encrypted control word information retrieved through a dedicated conditional access table from the stream in case of a complete stream.

5. A method of storing a stream of data, the method comprising extracting data for a selected part of the stream and storing the data for the selected part but not a remainder of the stream, together with a selection information table that describes the selection made from the stream, the selection information table containing information necessary for accessing encrypted control word information for use in decrypting the selected part of the stream.

6. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the secure device comprises a further memory space for storing acceptance information, the execution unit being arranged to execute first commands for updating the items of entitlement information, and second commands for updating the acceptance information, the execution unit effecting updates of any of the items in response to the first commands only if these first commands contain validation information that matches the acceptance information stored in the further memory space when these further commands are received.

7. A method of decoding a stream of data, the method comprising

- decrypting data from the stream, using decryption control words;
- supplying the control words with a secure device enable by one of at least two items of entitlement information, that are stored in the secure device sending a message to the secure device to enable sending of the control words to the decoder subject to the presence of a selected one of the items of entitlement information, the control words being decrypted with a decryption key associated with the selected one of the items, the selected one of the items being specified by the message.